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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **NORDIA INNOVATION AB** [SE/SE]; P.O. BOX 7363, S-103 90 STOCKHOLM (SE).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ROOS, Sture** [SE/BR]; R. 15 DE NOVEMBRO 92 VILA ATLANTICA, SP 117300 MONGAGUA (BR). **ULANDER, Jan** [SE/SE]; Helgevägen 10, S-182 54 Djursholm (SE).

(74) Agent: **ALBIHNS STOCKHOLM AB; LINNÉGATAN** 2, P.O. BOX 5581, S-114 85 STOCKHOLM (SE).

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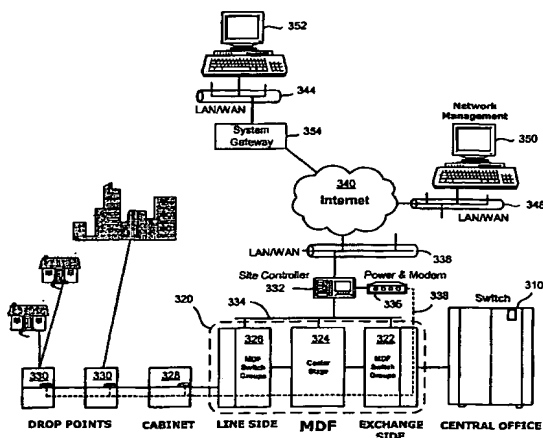
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(54) Title: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR REMOTELY AUTOMATING CROSS-CONNECTS IN TELECOM NETWORKS**



(57) Abstract: A method and system for automating cross-connects for a telecommunication system comprising a network of communication lines for connecting subscriber locations to a central office exchange 112. The communication lines extend to the subscriber locations from a main distribution frame (MDF) (320) in which a plurality of standard termination blocks are housed in the MDF for terminating the lines from to the subscriber side and lines from the exchange side, which are cross-connected in the prior art with jumper wires. In an embodiment of the invention, the cross-connects are mounted on modular cross-connect boards having mechanical switching means that are inserted into or connected to the termination blocks. Automation is achieved by selectively controlling the connection state of the cross-connects via a computer terminal (350,352) located remotely from the MDF. The system is scalable to the growth in subscriber lines within the MDF by installing additional cross-connect boards. A further embodiment includes automation of street cabinets (328) and drop point sites (330) containing cross-connect boards of the present invention.

WO 2005/057948 A1